

Nation, and it will help commuters in my district as well as travelers throughout the East Coast.

The second is using the bipartisan infrastructure law funding to improve Amtrak and travel throughout the Northeast corridor.

The third is more oversight over freight railroads nationwide.

The fourth is a promise that I made early on in the Congress to make sure that rail workers finally get the sick time they have earned and deserve. We need to make sure they are operating safely and efficiently across the country.

Again, I thank my colleagues for my selection. I look forward to working with all of them to make these priorities into realities.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAYOR RICHARD DAVIS

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of my friend, my fellow mayor, Richard Davis.

Richard was first elected to Richmond Hill City Council in 1979. He served there for 10 years. He then went on to be elected mayor in 1989, and he served honorably for 31 years.

During his tenure as city councilman and mayor, the city grew at a tremendous rate. When he first joined the city council, there were around 1,800 people living in Richmond Hill. Today, there are almost 12,000.

Richard made invaluable contributions to his home city through his passion for and commitment to public service. He is credited with helping start the Great Ogeechee Seafood Festival and the building of the J.F. Gregory Recreational Park.

Richard's name will always be synonymous with Richmond Hill, and our district will forever be indebted to Richard for his leadership and public service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

ENDING THE ARTSAKH BLOCKADE

(Ms. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn Azerbaijan's blockade of the Lachin corridor, the only humanitarian lifeline connecting the people of Artsakh to the Republic of Armenia.

For over nearly 2 months, the region's 120,000 Armenians have been denied food, fuel, medicine, and other essentials as a result of this cruel and inhumane blockade.

Azerbaijan's goal is clear, to force the ethnic Armenians of Artsakh from their homeland by imposing conditions

that make life impossible. We must hold Azerbaijan accountable for its aggression. I continue to call on the administration to take immediate steps to end this blockade.

We must end all U.S. military assistance to Azerbaijan. American taxpayers shouldn't be subsidizing Azerbaijan's constant aggression against the Armenian people.

I continue to stand in solidarity with the Armenian people and the Armenian-American community.

HONORING HOGANSVILLE MAYOR BILL STANKIEWICZ

(Mr. FERGUSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of my dear friend and former colleague, Mayor Bill Stankiewicz. Mayor Bill was a staple of Troup County, and he was loved by everyone.

Bill served his community as the city manager, a two-term mayor, and through his involvement on a number of boards, including the LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce, the Racial Trustbuilding Initiative, and the Joint Development Authority Board.

He was an extremely dedicated public servant, and he took great pride in doing the tough work to improve his community. As mayor, he worked to reestablish the city's finances during a period of instability, and he proudly worked to relocate and renovate city hall in Hogansville.

When I was the mayor of West Point, I had the privilege of working with Bill on many projects for the greater good of our county and our cities. He was a pleasure to be around.

My heart goes out to his wife, Mary, and the entire Troup County family. Bill will forever be remembered and honored for his invaluable service to his community and to this Nation. He will be sorely missed.

TYRE NICHOLS' DEATH SHOULD BE A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

(Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, like many of us, I spent the weekend thinking about the savage beating and murder of Tyre Nichols at the hands of five Memphis police officers.

Sworn to protect and serve, they did neither.

Had they honored their duty, Mr. Nichols would be alive with his 4-year-old son, family, and friends.

I am a mother to a 29-year-old son, the same age Tyre was. I have not worried that my sons could die at the hands of police at a traffic stop; a privilege of White mothers denied to mothers whose children are Black.

Black Americans are killed at a rate twice as high as White Americans. A 2019 report found that 1 in every 1,000 Black men between the ages of 20 and 35 can expect to be killed by law enforcement.

We must do more to ensure all of our communities are safe. Pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and find ways to reverse a police culture that sees Black Americans as a threat.

We can respect police officers as we require reform of practices rooted in hatred and violence. Black Americans have waited long enough. We must act.

SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA DISASTER

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, February 1, 2003, was intended to be a day of celebration to welcome back home seven brave men and women from their mission to space.

Instead, that day of intended celebration turned quickly to tragedy when Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated over east Texas upon reentry, an event captured on camera by local medical doctor, Scott Lieberman.

I rise today to honor those seven individuals who lost their lives in pursuit of space exploration and to commend my fellow east Texans who participated in the recovery efforts that followed.

I am proud to represent east Texans, who in the face of tragedy do not hesitate to spring into action, whatever the cause and whatever the need.

Please join me in honoring those astronauts who lost their lives 20 years ago: Rick Husband, William McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark, and Ilan Ramon.

We pray for their loved ones and remember with sympathy all impacted by this disaster.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF COLONEL JOHNNIE PANTANELLI

(Mr. BOWMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Colonel Johnnie Pantanelli.

Colonel Pantanelli embodied so many of our values. She fought for freedom, broke glass ceilings, and made sure the next generation of women flew.

Colonel Pantanelli served in the Marine Corps Reserves in 1944 and 1945, and soon after was told her service was no longer needed because the men were coming home.

Instead of quitting, she joined the Civil Air Patrol in White Plains and served as a wartime mission observer searching for German subs.

After the war, Colonel Pantanelli earned her pilot's license and survived

a plane crash during her flight training. She served for decades as commander of the squadron that is now named after her. In 2011, she earned the rank of colonel.

Colonel Pantanelli passed away on January 14, 2023. She would have been 98 in March.

New York's 16th District and I thank her for her service and send our deepest condolences to everyone impacted by this monumental loss.

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS DESERVE SUPPORT

(Mr. ZINKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of our Nation's wildland firefighters.

In my role as Secretary of the Interior, as Congressman, and as a Montanan, I have seen the devastation that mismanagement and overregulation has brought to our forests.

Every year, we bear witness to our forests and homes burning in catastrophic wildfires, wildfires that will be made worse by frivolous and potentially deadly litigation that seeks to prevent firefighters from doing their job.

Last year, I was at a fire camp in Elmo, Montana. While I watched scoopers from Bridger Aerospace do their work on the ridge, I also noticed the red stripe where retardant was dropped to protect homes, ranches, and lives.

In many ways, wildland firefighting is a lot like serving on the battlefield. The men and women are dropped behind enemy lines, surrounded on all fronts, and the only resources they have next to them are those men and women who fight fires and the air support above. If they call in air support, it is because they need it.

We would never think of denying our troops in battle the lifesaving air support they need, so why would anyone think that our firefighters doing their job deserve any less?

□ 1800

HOMES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

(Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the 33,000 veterans in this country experiencing homelessness and ask for your support for my bill, the Healthy Foundations for Homeless Veterans Act.

This bill would make permanent the temporary flexibilities granted to the Department of Veterans Affairs from section 4201(a).

Veterans make up 7 percent of the general population but represent 13 percent of adults who are suffering from homelessness. Nationally, the total number of veterans experiencing

homelessness has decreased by 11 percent since January 2020.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has placed over 40,000 veterans in permanent housing as a result of the temporary flexibilities granted to it to provide shelter. This is a great start; however, we can make more progress. This is just the beginning, as there are an estimated 267 homeless veterans in Broward County, where I represent.

This commonsense legislation would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide shelter, food, clothing, bedding, hygiene items, transportation, communication devices, and other necessary assistance to veterans who are homeless and are using rental vouchers.

Mr. Speaker, we will not stop until every veteran has a roof over their head.

HONORING THE NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

(Mr. SANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of the Nassau County Police Department.

Last week, the Nassau PD arrested eight men in New York's Third Congressional District who are said to be part of an organized theft group from South America.

While I am grateful to their ongoing commitment to preventing these acts of violence, but for suburban New Yorkers in New York's Third Congressional District, we are seeing a major uptick in crime.

In Nassau County alone, a reported 7,394 crimes have been recorded in 2022. This includes grand larceny, burglaries, and vehicle theft.

Recently, I spoke with the NYPD's commanding officer, Assistant Chief Kevin Williams of Queens, to discuss the potential protests in response to the unfortunate events that have taken place in Memphis.

I personally extend my support to Assistant Chief Williams and his team during this time of uncertainty. While peaceful protests may occur nationwide, we should also offer our support to the brave men and women of our local law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, it is my commitment to support good policy that will provide both the training and resources that our local law enforcement requires to keep our communities safe.

IN MEMORY OF ALBERTO BHOGE

(Mr. MILLS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a saddened occasion to talk about a son, a brother, a husband, father, soldier, agent, and friend, truly beloved by so many whose lives he touched.

Alberto Bhoge was born February 12, 1984, and honorably served in the U.S.

Army Reserves from February 2010 to September 2014.

During his time serving honorably in uniform, he deployed to Afghanistan in April 2010 until February 2011 with C Company 478th Civil Affairs Battalion.

If serving wasn't enough to dedicate your life and be willing to die for this Nation, he took his uniform off and continued his service in the Federal Bureau of Investigation where he protected our country through his civil service.

Alberto passed on January 17, 2023, and is survived by his wife, who also serves with the FBI, and their two children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that everyone here today join me in praying for his family, friends, and all those who cared for Berto. We love you. God bless. Airborne.

IMPROVING OUR GOVERNMENT THROUGH LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to introduce three bills to make our government work a little better. Before I get to those, I would put a question to all of us in this Chamber, the thousands who are sitting here tonight in the gallery, folks watching, but those of us who have the privilege to have this job.

Why are we here?

What is the reason we decided to get into this line of work?

There is a small number of us who, I don't know, may go on to be President or some other office. There is a handful of us who get our viral clips on the local news. There is some larger number of us who actually get our name on a big bill that makes a difference, and we are remembered by our name: The Tafts and Hartleys and Sarbanes and Oxleys.

The truth is that most of us are going to be about as well-known to our successors as our predecessors are to us.

We are here. We are doing a job. We will be known for the office that we held. We will be remembered for the dignity with which we held that office but not for who we are as individuals. And that is okay, right?

One of my favorite pieces of advice I got when I got into this line of work was from President Obama, who said, This is not a sprint, this is a relay. And your job is to pass the baton to the next person in a little bit of a better position than you had it when you picked it up on the last leg.

Now everybody in this body has different policy views, different ideas of what a better position in that relay might look like. But I submit that we do have some universal goals that we all agree on or else we wouldn't be in this line of work.